IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, after the TITLE, but before the subheading "TECHNICAL FIELD," please insert the following section:

CROSS-RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a Divisional Application of 10/442,227, filed May 21, 2003, which is a continuation of PCT/JP01/10407, filed on November 28, 2001.

Please replace the Abstract at page 51, lines 1-22, with the following rewritten Abstract:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides a process whereby fluorine atom-containing sulfonyl fluoride compound(s) useful as e.g. materials for ion-exchange membranes, can be produced efficiently and at low cost without structural limitations while solving the difficulties in production. Namely, the present invention provides a process which comprises reacting XSO_2R^A-E^1 (1) with R^B-E^2 (2) to form XSO_2R^A-E-R^B (3), then reacting (3) with fluorine in a liquid phase to form FSO_2R^{AF}-E^F-R^{BF} (4), and further, decomposing the compound to obtain FSO_2R^{AF}-E^{F1} (5), wherein R^A is a bivalent organic group, E^1 is a monovalent reactive group, R^B is a monovalent organic group, E^2 is a monovalent reactive group which is reactive with E^1, E is a bivalent connecting group formed by the reaction of E^1 with E^2, R^{AF} is a bivalent organic group formed by the fluorination of R^A, etc., R^{BF} is the same group as R^B, etc., E^F is a bivalent connecting group formed by the fluorination of E, etc., E^{F1} is a monovalent group formed by the decomposition of E^F, and X is a halogen atom.